

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 QUITO 05977 01 OF 02 261645Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
AID-05 PC-01 HA-05 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /093 W
-----121143 261652Z /43

P R 261604Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9221
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 QUITO 5977

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, EC
SUBJECT: HURTADO TIES SET ACTIONS TO BROADER PLOT

REF: QUITO 5940

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. OSVALDO HURTADO IN AN AUGUST 24 PRESS INTERVIEW TIED SUPREME ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL (SET) ACTIONS TO A BROADER PLOT TO STOP THE RETORNO. MEANWHILE, THE SET CIRCUS CONTINUES UNDAUNTED. SET PRESIDENT BAQUERO DE LA CALLE AND PICHINCHA TRIBUNAL OFFICIALS HAVE NO TRADED CHARGES OF FRAUD AND OBSTRUCTIONISM. THE RESULTS FROM MOST OF PICHINCHA REMAIN IN LIMBO AND MAY NOT BE CLARIFIED SOON. END SUMMARY.

2. ON AUGUST 24 JAIME ROLDOS' RUNNING MATE OSVALDO HURTADO MADE THE MOST DETAILED PUBLIC STATEMENT TO DATE ON RUMORS OF A PLOT TO DERAIL THE RETORNO. RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS POSED BY AN INTERVIEWER FROM THE GUAYAQUIL PAPER EL TELEGRAFO
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 QUITO 05977 01 OF 02 261645Z

(SURPRISINGLY ENOUGH, THE AROSEMENA GOMEZ PAPER), HURTADO SAID THAT POLITICAL PARTIES DEFEATED ON JULY 16, PARTIES THAT FAILED TO GET SUFFICIENT VOTES TO SURVIVE UNDER RULES OF THE CURRENT ELECTORAL LAW, AND "OLIGARCHIC ELEMENTS" FROM GUAYAQUIL WERE IN FACT CONSPIRING TO DISRUPT THE RETORNO. HE SAID THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY TO INTERPRET A NUMBER OF ACTIONS AND EVENTS, SUCH AS THE ACTIONS OF THE SET IN

SOWING DOUBT ABOUT THE INTEGRITY OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS AND THE DECLARATION OF AN INDIVIDUAL REPRESENTING RAUL CLEMENTE HUERTA BEFORE THE SET THAT HUERTA WOULD WITHDRAW HIS CANDIDACY SHOULD HE NOT BE SATISFIED WITH THE SCRUTINIES. HE EXPRESSED THE CONVICTION THAT THE WILL OF THE ARMED FORCES IS STRONG ENOUGH TO RESIST THESE "GOLPISTA" PRESSURES AND SEE THE PROCESS THROUGH. HE ALSO DISCOUNTED THE POSSIBILITY THAT BOTH HUERTA AND SIXTO DURAN WOULD RESIGN, CITING HUERTA'S EXPRESS COMMITMENTS AND THE FACT THAT DURAN IS AN "HONORABLE MAN". IN ANY EVENT, HE ADDED, THEIR RESIGNATIONS WOULD NOT CREATE A VACUUM NOR FORCE CANCELANON OF THE SECOND ROUND. HE REFERRED TO THE CASE OF GUAYAQUIL WHERE A MAYORAL CANDIDATE TRIED TO RENOUNCE HIS CANDIDACY BUT WAS DENIED BY THE GUAYAS TRIBUNAL AND HIS NAME LEFT ON THE BALLOT.

3. THE SET CONTINUED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS CLIMATE OF UNCERTAINTY WHEN ITS PRESIDENT, JOSE ANTONIO BAQUERO DE LA CALLE, MADE HIS PROMISED APPEARANCE ON NATIONWIDE RADIO AND T.V. ON AUGUST 24. ALTHOUGH LESS SPECTACULAR THAN EXPECTED, HIS PRESENTATION WAS STILL SIGNIFICANT. BAQUERO ACCUSED THE PICHINCHA TRIBUNAL OF COMMITTING IRREGULARITIES AND DISOBEYING SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE SET. ONE IRREGULARITY CONSISTED IN NOT ACCOUNTING FOR SOME 60,500 BALLOTS WHICH WERE PROVIDED TO THE PROVINCIAL TRIBUNAL OVER AND ABOVE THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 QUITO 05977 01 OF 02 261645Z

THE PROVINCE. A SECOND IRREGULARITY CONSISTED IN STAPLING THE FIVE SEPARATE BALLOTS IN A SINGLE PACKET, IN VIOLATION OF SPECIFIC SET INSTRUCTION, AND, MOREOVER, SENDING THEM OUT TO PRIVATE HOMES, WOMEN'S JAILS AND EVEN CONVENTS TO BE STAPLED. HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT ELECTION DOCUMENTS IN SANTO DOMINGO DE LOS COLORADOS WERE NOT PROPERLY HANDLED.

4. BAQUERO DID NOT, HOWEVER, CLAIM THAT ANY OF THESE

IRREGULARITIES WERE COMMITTED WITH FRAUDULENT INTENT, OR THAT FRAUD ACTUALLY OCCURRED. HE DID NOT MENTION PRE-MARKED BALLOTS AT ALL. NOR DID HE REFER TO ANY SPECIFIC POLITICAL PARTY AS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE IRREGULARITIES OR GUILTY OF FRAUD IN PICHINCHA. NOR DID HE ANNOUNCE WHAT ACTION THE SET WOULD TAKE WITH REGARD TO THE NUMEROUS PRECINCTS IN PICHINCHA WHERE SCRUTINY HAS BEEN HALTED PENDING RESOLUTION OF THE FRAUD QUESTION. HE SAID THAT THE SET WOULD MEET WITH THE PICHINCHA TRIBUNAL AND THEN MAKE ITS DECISION. ON AUGUST 25 HE ADDED SOMEWHAT TO THAT BY RECALLING THE ELECTORAL LAW PROVISIONS FOR BRINGING CHARGES AGAINST THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR IRREGULARITIES AND INDICATING THAT HE PLANNED TO BRING SUCH CHARGES AGAINST

THE PICHINCHA TRIBUNAL MEMBERS.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 QUITO 05977 02 OF 02 261650Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
AID-05 PC-01 HA-05 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /093 W
-----121157 261652Z /43

P R 261604Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9222
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 QUITO 5977

5. BAQUERO'S STATEMENTS PRODUCED A WITHERING RESPONSE FROM PICHINCHA TRIBUNAL PRESIDENT JOSE MARIA GORDILLO, A LIBERAL PARTY MEMBER. GORDILLO CLAIMED THAT HIS TRIBUNAL'S ACTIONS WERE JUSTIFIED AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH TRADITIONAL PRACTICE. HE STRONGLY CRITICIZED BAQUERO FOR MAKING PUBLIC DECLARATIONS BEFORE THE PROVINCIAL GROUP HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN ITS ACTIONS FULLY, NOTING THAT BAQUERO HAD REPEATEDLY PROMISED TO GIVE HIM A HEARING BUT HAD NOT DONE SO. PICHINCHA TRIBUNAL VICE-PRESIDENT AND SPOKESMAN FRANCISCO SAA CHACON, A MEMBER OF ROLDOS' CFP, COMMENTED THAT THERE IS A PLOT BY POLITICIANS DISATISFIED WITH THE ELECTION RESULTS TO TRY AND INVENT NEW WAYS TO BRING THE MILITARY OUT FROM ITS BARRACKS.

6. COMMENT: HURTADO'S STATEMENT LAYS OUT PRACTICALLY ALL ELEMENTS OF THE PURPORTED PLOT, LEAVING OUT ONLY THE QUESTION OF MILITARY INVOLVEMENT. THAT PROBABLY INTENTIONAL OMMISSION WAS, IN ANY EVENT, COVERED BY SAA CHACON'S
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 QUITO 05977 02 OF 02 261650Z

STATEMENT THE NEXT DAY. HURTADO'S ATTACK MARKS THE BEGINNING OF A CONCERTED CAMPAIGN TO ABORT THE PLOT BY EXPOSING IT TO THE BRIGHT EYE OF PUBLICITY.

7. PICHINCHA REMAINS LARGELY UP IN THE AIR. SET ATTEMPTS TO LABEL WHAT OCCURRED THERE AS FRAUD HAVE BEEN ATTACKED BY THE PROVINCIAL TRIBUNAL, A MORE ARTICULATE AND ABLE GROUP THAN IN MOST OTHER PROVINCES. IN ADDITION, MOST POLITICIANS AND THE PRESS HAVE TREATED THOSE CHARGES WITH MARKED SCEPTICISM. IF, AS HURTADO HAS CHARGED, THIS IS ALL PART OF A BROADER PLOT, THE PLOTTERS WILL HAVE TO COME UP WITH MORE CONVINCING EVIDENCE OF MASSIVE FRAUD IF THEY ARE TO CONVINCE THE POLITCALLY ASTUTE THAT THE PROCESS IS FAULTY.
GONZALEZ

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PLOTS, PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978QUITO05977
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780350-0364
Format: TEL
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780819/aaaaapzp.tel
Line Count: 187
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 992af25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 QUITO 5940
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1607983
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HURTADO TIES SET ACTIONS TO BROADER PLOT
TAGS: PINT, EC, (HURTADO, OSVALDO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/992af25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014